

Job is a privilege

Gym coach likes work

A job that can be described as a pleasure, a privilege and a learning experience is a rare one indeed, but University of Nebraska gymnastics coach Francis Allen uses all of those terms to describe his recent experiences.

The pleasure aspect is understandable. Allen, coach of the U.S. team in the Pacific Rim meet, returned Friday from a five stop tour which took him to Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Canada.

After returning from Las Vegas, Allen will leave Oct. 26-28 for Fort Worth, Tex. He and the seventh through twelfth-ranked gymnasts on the World Games team will participate in a judge's training course meet.

This will allow Allen into all the practice sessions, which provide the most valuable lessons.

"The training sessions are most important. You get to see what they can't do as well as what they can," Allen said.

The UNL team should also benefit from this trip, Allen said.

"Hopefully they will know more than the others. This way I get it faster and the team learns faster. I think the team also works harder while I'm gone. My assistant works them. I'm the one they come to when they want to get out of work."

Hartung attends some international meets that Allen doesn't, and brings back filmed reports of other gymnasts.

This extra information merely adds to Allen's optimism about this year's UNL gymnastics team.

"I'm excited that we got Scott Johnson and Phil Cahoy. By midyear those two will be able to go against any two on any other team in the country and win," Allen said. "Not just any two freshmen, but anybody."

The Huskers also have John Balluff and Frank Hibbits, two side horse specialists that will be valuable to the team, he said.

"The basic thing we want to do is keep them all healthy. Last year's meets were an all time high, and this year should be even better."

sara martens

He leaves today for the Caesar's Palace Gymnastics Extravaganza in Las Vegas.

It will also be a pleasure for some of his gymnasts, as freshman Phil Cahoy, sophomore Jim Hartung, and Husker graduate Larry Gerard will compete in the Las Vegas meet. They were also members of the rotating team at the Pacific Rim meet, sharing the spotlight with Bart Conner, Mike Wilson and Kurt Thomas, among others.

The privilege and learning go hand in hand, Allen said, as he coaches some of the top 12 gymnasts in the country.

"I get to film a lot that the Japanese and Chinese are doing. I see them daily. It's really a unique educational experience," he said.

What Allen learns is immediately worked into the practices and training techniques of the Husker gymnastics team.

"It's hard to weigh the value of that," he said. "It's extremely valuable."

Nebraska weekend sports

<p>Friday Tennis—Nebraska women host Kansas State at Sports Center, 3 p.m. Volleyball—Nebraska at Southwest Missouri Invitational, Springfield, Mo. Golf—Nebraska women at Missouri Invitational.</p>	<p>Volleyball—Nebraska at Southwest Missouri Invitational. Softball—Nebraska at Kansas. Golf—Nebraska women at Missouri Invitational.</p>
<p>Saturday Football—Nebraska at Oklahoma State, Stillwater, Okla., 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Sunday Golf—Nebraska women at Missouri Invitational. Softball—Nebraska Varsity-Alumni game at Ballard Field, 2 p.m.</p>

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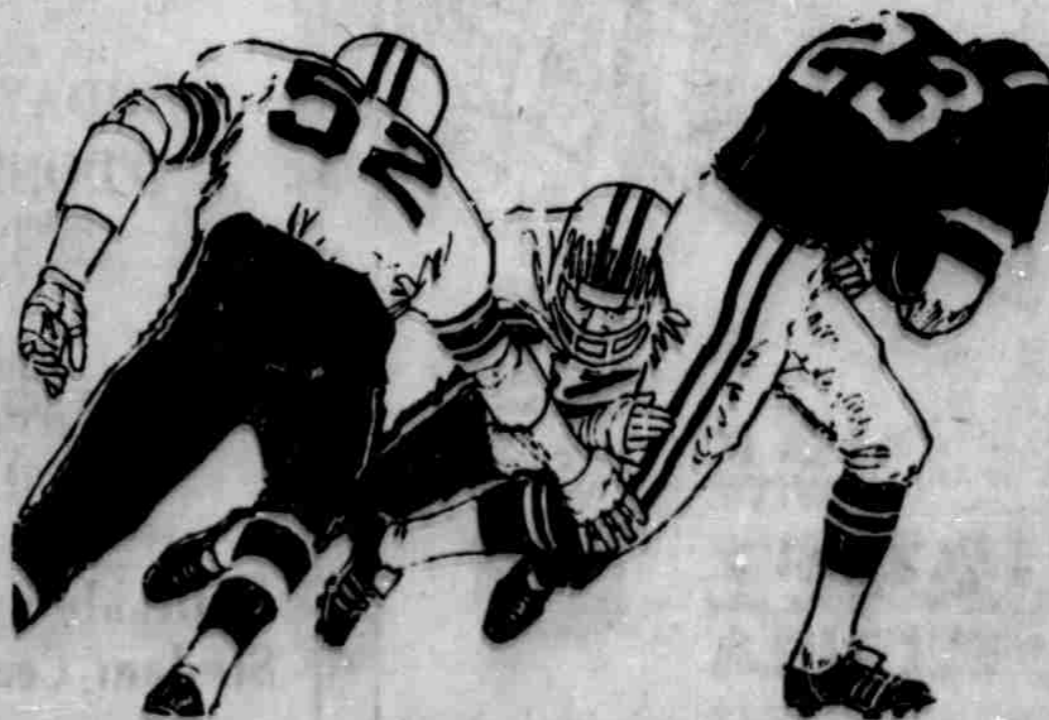
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